



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 February 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to a senior U.S. intelligence official, one of Al Qaeda's top explosives specialists is training Western recruits for chemical attacks in Europe and perhaps in the U.S. One international counterterrorism official said there are indications that some operatives have received immunizations against biological agents. (See item [5](#))
- The Washington Post reports that the U.S. Park Police have failed to adequately protect such national landmarks as the Statue of Liberty, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument and are plagued by low morale, poor leadership, and bad organization, according to a new government report. (See item [36](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: **ELEVATED**,
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 4, Associated Press* – (National) **Oil prices fall on economic worries.** Oil prices fell Monday as worries of a possible U.S. recession that would stunt oil demand more than offset the impact of fresh gains in global stock markets. On Monday, investors appeared to remain focused on weak economic data in the U.S. that pushed oil futures down almost \$3 a barrel at the end of last week. Light, sweet crude for March delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 60 cents to \$88.36 a barrel in electronic trading by midday in Europe. In London, Brent crude futures fell 39 cents to \$89.05 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. The Nymex contract dropped \$2.79 a

barrel on Friday after the U.S. Labor Department reported that employers cut 17,000 jobs last month, the first reduction in more than four years and a sign that the economy continues to weaken. Responding to recent oil price declines, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said Friday it will maintain current oil output levels due to concerns that a weakening global economy will result in softer demand. Asian and European stock markets rose Monday, following last week's rise on Wall Street.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i5TtajgUpSm7KY5jf-ICJGHBB-tAD8UJG6OG0>

2. *February 3, New York Times* – (National) **A ‘bold’ step to capture an elusive gas falters.** There was much enthusiasm five years ago when the Bush administration said it would pursue “one of the boldest steps our nation has taken toward a pollution-free energy future” by building a commercial-scale coal-fire plant that would emit no carbon dioxide. However, with the budget of the so-called FutureGen project having nearly doubled, to \$1.8 billion, and the government responsible for more than 70 percent of the eventual bill, the administration completely revamped the project. The idea was to capture carbon dioxide emitted by coal-fire power plants and then pump it deep into the earth to avoid further buildup of the gas in the atmosphere. But several experts said the plan still lacked the scope to test various gas-separation technologies, coal varieties, and – most important – whether varied geological conditions can permanently hold carbon dioxide. Coal companies are desperate for this option to work, given how much coal remains to be mined. Many climate scientists and environmental campaigners see it as vital. Steady growth in coal use by developing and industrialized countries is expected to extend well beyond 2030. Many experts say that neither the original plan nor the revamped effort, nor the few projects underway in other countries, are sufficient to set the stage for pumping tens of billions of tons of compressed carbon dioxide into the earth or sea bed starting ten or 20 years from now.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/03/weekinreview/03revk.html?em&ex=1202274000&en=a273d02c9937d16c&ei=5087%0A>

3. *February 3, Reuters* – (California) **Chevron restarts L.A. refinery FCC.** Chevron Corp. was restarting the 90,000 barrel per day (bpd) gasoline-producing fluidic catalytic cracking unit at its 260,000 bpd Los Angeles-area refinery in El Segundo, California, over the weekend, according to a notice filed with the California Office of Emergency Services. Increased releases of sulfur dioxide from the refinery began Saturday night due to the restart, according to the notice. Chevron also filed notice with Los Angeles pollution regulators of flaring Sunday at the El Segundo refinery. The flaring Sunday was expected to last throughout the day, up to 12 hours beginning at 8:10 a.m. local time, according to the notice filed with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Los Angeles refineries are switching over to making gasoline blended to reduce release of smog-causing chemicals in the higher temperatures of the summer driving season. At least one other Los Angeles refinery is carrying out an overhaul of its gasoline producing units. The switchover to summer-blend gasoline is staggered in California, with Los Angeles and areas south making the change in early February.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0346060520080203>

4. *February 3, Reuters* – (Texas) **Shell Deer Park begins gasoline unit restart.** Shell Oil Co.'s joint-venture 340,000 barrel per day (bpd) Deer Park, Texas, refinery began restarting gasoline production units on Sunday after a planned overhaul, according to a notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The refinery's 70,000 bpd gasoline-producing catalytic cracking unit, gasoline hydrotreater, an alkylation unit, three sulfur recovery units, and a girbotol unit will be restarted between February 3 and March 1. The units were shut on January 17 for inspection, cleaning, and repairs. Crude oil throughput the refinery was reduced by an unspecified amount while the units were being overhauled.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0345732720080203>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *February 4, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Al Qaeda said to focus on acquiring WMDs.** Recent intelligence shows that Abu Khabab Masri – an Egyptian believed to be one of Al Qaeda's top explosives specialists, as well as a senior researcher and instructor in chemical weapons – is training Western recruits for chemical attacks in Europe and perhaps the United States, just as he did when he ran the "Khabab Camp" within Al Qaeda's Derunta training complex in Afghanistan before the attacks of September 11, 2001, according to a senior U.S. intelligence official. One international counterterrorism official said there are indications that some operatives have received immunizations against biological agents. The head of the Action Against Terrorism Unit of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe said it was widely assumed that Al Qaeda developed chemical weapons years ago, and that if it does not have biological capabilities already, "they are certainly not far from it."

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2008/02/04/qaeda_said_to_focus_on_aquiring_wmds/

6. *February 4, Appleton Post-Crescent* – (Wisconsin) **Officials: Chemical spill not hazardous.** The Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin, Public Safety Department determined that a Saturday night chemical spill at Ahlstrom Green Bay LLC did not release hazardous vapors or gases into the area. Ashwaubenon officers were dispatched to the scene after a container holding about 300 gallons of an unknown material reacted, causing the material to spill and release a vapor. The Brown County Hazardous Materials Response Team later determined the spilled material did not pose a threat to the area. The building was evacuated as a precaution and there were no injuries. The scene was later released to the property owner for further cleanup. The cause of the reaction and spill are under investigation, Ashwaubenon officials said.

Source:

<http://www.postcrescent.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080204/APC0101/802040553/1003/APC01>

7. *February 3, Wichita Eagle* – (National) **Chemical blast may spur safety steps.** The

massive Barton Solvents explosion in Valley Center, Kansas, last July could prompt a national safety advisory for facilities that transfer and store certain flammable liquids, a federal investigator says. The advisory, if approved by the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, would urge handlers nationwide to take a series of precautions including measures to prevent the accumulation of static electricity, which was blamed for the explosion, and a step to eliminate a key component in a fire – oxygen in storage tanks. The advisory could be issued in March or April. The advisory would be for any facilities that pump and store flammable solvents, as defined by National Fire Protection Association standards. A recently completed state investigation has concluded that the July 17 explosion occurred when a static electric charge ignited vapors in a solvent tank that was being filled. Since the incident, officials have said they suspected static in the tank.

Source: <http://www.realcities.com/mld/kansas/18301821.htm>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *February 4, Washington Post* – (National) **Detecting nuclear threats to cities proves difficult task.** At an estimated cost of \$90 million, the Securing the Cities program absorbs a small fraction of the Bush administration’s overall national security and counter-proliferation expenditures. But critics have questioned its value, noting its rapid growth in the absence of a specific threat of urban nuclear terrorism, as well as the program’s technical challenges and operational limitations. Senate appropriators warned in a report last year that the aims of the program may be technologically unfeasible. The attempt to create a detection system in New York as a model for other cities is based on assumptions “that run counter to current intelligence in this threat arena, and has no measure of success, nor an end point,” they said. Supporters say that however slight the odds, the risk of a nuclear-related attack on New York or another U.S. city exists. Such an attack’s consequences on the nation’s economy, society, and psyche would be too extreme to neglect a goal-line defense, they say. Homeland Security, New York police, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and officials from three states and 91 localities have responded by forging a partnership that participants and outside analysts have praised. More than 1,400 local officers have been trained in radiation detection operations, and basic hand-held radiation detectors have been distributed to thousands of officers and other officials. A half-dozen \$500,000 trucks with detectors capable of distinguishing different radioactive materials are also in use in Manhattan. Among other issues, independent analysts warn that existing detectors are more effective in finding unshielded nuclear devices than they are at finding improvised nuclear bombs with lead-shielded, weapons-grade uranium, which would emit a much smaller radiation signal.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/02/04/detecting_nuclear_threats_to_cities_proves_difficult_task/

9. *February 4, CBC News* – (International) **Stolen pickup contains radioactive material, police warn.** Police in northern Alberta, Canada, are asking the public to be on the lookout for a stolen pickup truck containing radioactive equipment. The vehicle was left

unlocked and running outside a Fort McMurray hotel Saturday morning. It was carrying radioactive equipment used for work on the oilfields. The radioactive equipment poses no harm to people if it remains secured in its cases, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police corporal said, but warned there is a risk of exposure if someone were to tamper with the cases. He said federal nuclear officials have been notified as a formality, but added police believe it was a crime of opportunity and that the vehicle was not specifically targeted.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/edmonton/story/2008/02/04/truck-radioactive.html>

10. *February 3, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Spent nuclear fuel storage raises concerns.** Set into a man-made bluff rising 320 feet above the Pacific Ocean stand eight steel cylinders, which provide a secure storage for the highly radioactive spent fuel now filling up the cooling pools at Pacific Gas & Electric's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Local activists, however, see this site as a target for terrorists. Legal experts see it as a potential clash between the nation's courts as they try to settle the same question: Should Washington require stricter anti-terrorism measures as the nation's nuclear reactor industry builds aboveground storage for radioactive waste that has nowhere else to go? When the answer comes – through the appellate courts or the U.S. Supreme Court – it will help shape the Bush administration's quest for a rebirth of nuclear power.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/nation/20080203-9999-1n3diablo.html>

11. *February 3, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Progress Energy hopes to expand nuclear plant.** In North Carolina, Progress Energy wants to build two new reactors at the Shearon Harris site to accommodate growth. The counter-argument is that more nuclear energy is precisely what the community does not need. The North Carolina Waste Awareness and Reduction Network is critical of nuclear power and wants consumers to look for more energy-efficient solutions that cut down on greenhouse gas emissions from conventionally fueled plants. Ultimately, the decision on the Shearon Harris expansion is up to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). "As long as it's safe, that is our bottom line," the NRC chairman said. Progress Energy said it expects to file its expansion application with the NRC sometime this month. The company hopes to have the two new reactors up and running by 2018.

Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/2390421/>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *February 4, Jane's* – (National) **DARPA/university team works on technology for micro aerial vehicles.** The U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is working with Oklahoma State University (OSU) to develop technologies for use in micro aerial vehicles (MAVs), including plasma actuators and inflatable wings. DARPA's objective for its Nano Air Vehicle (NAV) program is to "develop and demonstrate an extremely small (less than 7.5 cm), ultra-lightweight (less than 10 g) air vehicle system with the potential to perform indoor and outdoor military missions" with a particular emphasis on "urban mission operations." According to DARPA, the program will advance technologies that enable collision avoidance and navigation

systems to be used in GPS-denied indoor and outdoor environments, and will develop efficient methods for hovering flight and the deployment or emplacement of sensors.

Source: http://www.janes.com/news/defence/idr/idr080204_1_n.shtml

13. *February 4, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Army moves ahead with MULE.** The U.S. Army is working on the technology and tactics needed to allow a ten-foot robot moving alongside infantry units to find and fire upon enemies, Army officials said. The Army completed the preliminary design review for its Multifunction Utility Logistics Equipment (MULE) vehicle and is moving into detailed design. The six-wheeled MULE – originally intended to carry supplies, look for bombs, and conduct reconnaissance without human intervention – will be built in an armed variant called the Armed Robotic Vehicle Assault-Light that will carry M240 machine guns and Javelin antitank missiles. The armed MULE will be able to spot an enemy and prepare a firing plan, but it must always receive permission from a human before firing. The Army plans a critical design review in 2009 and to take delivery of the first of 16 prototypes in December 2010.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3346459&C=navwar>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *February 4, Garden Island* – (National) **E-mail scam searches for passwords.** The FBI is warning residents to be cautious of an e-mail claiming that a complaint has been filed against them or their company with a government agency. The complaint also could unleash a computer virus that “phishes” for passwords, authorities say. The fraudulent e-mails state that a complaint has been filed with the Department of Justice, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, or the Better Business Bureau could be used to try to elicit personal information from the recipient for identity-theft purposes. According to an FBI prepared statement, the e-mails, which appear as legitimate messages from the above departments, address the recipients by name. The e-mails also claim to be urgent and ask residents to click on a link, open an attachment, or initiate a telephone call. Federal authorities say the e-mail refers to a complaint that is in the form of an attachment, which contains virus software designed to steal passwords from the recipient. The virus is wrapped in a screensaver file wherein most anti-virus programs are unable to detect its malicious intent. Once downloaded, the virus is designed to monitor username and password logins, and record the activity, as well as other password-type information that is entered on the compromised computer. Residents are being asked by federal authorities to be wary of any e-mail received from an unknown sender. They are also being asked not to open any unsolicited e-mail and to avoid clicking on any links provided.

Source: <http://www.kauaiworld.com/articles/2008/02/04/news/news03.txt>

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Transportation Sector

15. *February 2, Associated Press* – (National) **NTSB: FAA slow to respond to smoke**

incidents. The Federal Aviation Administration has yet to implement recommendations stemming from several instances in which smoke was reported in the cockpit of a Boeing 757 aircraft, the National Transportation Safety Board said Friday. In response, the FAA said that Boeing has already notified carriers of the problem and how to fix it. In September, the NTSB issued two safety recommendations to the FAA asking the agency to require the installation of redesigned window heating systems in all Boeing 747, 757, 767, and 777 series aircraft. The recommendations have not been implemented, the NTSB said. The most recent incident took place Wednesday when an American Airlines B757-200 flying from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Philadelphia made an emergency landing in West Palm Beach, Florida. Several of those aboard – the flight carried 139 passengers and seven crewmembers – were treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation, the NTSB said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-02-01-cockpit-smoke-incidents_N.htm

16. *February 2, Aero-News Network* – (Florida) **Taxiing jet collides with three other planes at FXE.** A Rockwell Sabreliner 265 bizjet reportedly struck the propeller of a Cessna Caravan while taxiing on the ramp at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) Friday afternoon, setting off a chain of events that resulted in four wrecked aircraft, covered in fire-fighting foam. No one was injured in the melee on the World Jet Charters ramp, which occurred as the taxiing Sabreliner was moving to another area of the ramp for maintenance, reports the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. The chain of events is still not crystal-clear, but according to a FXE spokesman, the Sabreliner apparently lost control when it hit the Caravan's prop, and proceeded to spin into a parked Sabreliner and then into a third Sabre which was under tow. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate Friday's incident, and the Federal Aviation Administration will also reportedly get involved, according to the television station.

Source: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=018cd13f-b8fb-4604-97c2-4fc104633a12&>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *February 4, Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Police investigate suspicious powder found in envelope.** James City County Police are investigating an envelope with suspicious white powder that was mailed to a local couple this week. A county police spokesman said the couple returned to their home early Monday morning after being out of town, and were opening their mail when they discovered the powder inside an envelope with no return address. The envelope was postmarked January 28 and came from Binghamton, New York. It contained nothing else besides the powder. The fire department took the envelope and powder, and the couple has been advised to contact the police if they begin to feel ill or notice anything unusual.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/williamsburg/dp-powderonlinefeb05.0.6363194.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *February 3, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Mich. farmers part of pilot project targeting cattle virus.** Cattle producers in Michigan’s western Upper Peninsula are taking part in a program aimed at studying a disease that causes diarrhea, listlessness, and loss of appetite in cows. Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus does not spread from cows to humans, the Daily Mining Gazette of Houghton reported recently. Under the study, skin samples will be taken from cows and sent to researchers for testing. A veterinarian with Michigan State University said most cows that get the virus develop immunity, but some young calves have a shortened life span. The study is being funded by Pfizer Animal Health.
Source: <http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/news-50/1202060959147520.xml&storylist=newsmichigan>
19. *February 2, Associated Press* – (National) **USDA bird flu plan needs test.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture cannot ensure it will respond effectively to a bird flu outbreak because it has not tested many of the policies put in place as part of a national preparedness plan, an inspector general’s report said Friday. The USDA would be responsible for preventing or minimizing a bird flu outbreak among domestic animals. An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza could create havoc in the egg and poultry market, now valued at about \$27 billion. The department’s inspector general said it has made “significant progress” in preparing for a potential outbreak. For example, it developed regulations that allow producers to be compensated for losses incurred from low-pathogenic avian influenza infecting their flocks. Culling infected birds can reduce the potential of the virus mutating into a more pathogenic form. But the report said the USDA had no plans to test several important strategies that it has developed. The plan is available online at: <http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/33701-01-HY.pdf>
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jnvBKuDuoVWOAu-qFJ4HoAh46MKwD8UHQK8G0>
20. *February 1, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. farms decline in 2007 to 2.08 mln.** U.S. farm operations are estimated at 2.08 million at the start of this year, a decline of 0.6 percent, from 2.09 million one year ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said. Some 930.9 million acres were in farmland, down 1.5 million acres from one year earlier. The decline in farm numbers pushed the average farm size up to 449 acres, an increase of three acres from the prior year. Farms with sales of less than \$100,000 – which account for about 83 percent of all U.S. farms – dropped 1.2 percent due to consolidation and rising incomes that moved some farmers and ranchers into the next sales bracket without adding land or boosting their businesses. Operations with sales of \$100,000 or more rose 2.2 percent. Among the states with the largest decline in farms, Tennessee lost 2,000 farms; Georgia 1,500; and California, Texas, and Florida each lost about 1,000 farms in 2007. Despite the decline, Texas had the most farms in the country with 229,000 at the beginning of 2008, followed by Missouri at 104,500. Illinois was the only Midwest state to report an increase, with operations rising by 100.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080201/us_nm/usa_farms_usda_dc;_ylt=Ah_uJneIW0g3yblH1qoGYBAWIr0F

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Water Sector

21. *February 4, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Sewage spill warning for Richardson Bay.** Warnings to stay out of Richardson Bay near Mill Valley, California, remained in effect on Sunday after the accidental release of partially treated sewage four days ago, according to the Marin County Sheriff's Office. Visitors were advised to avoid swimming and fishing near the site of the spill, at the sewage treatment plant at Bayfront Park. Tests showed four times the allowed limit for fecal bacteria in the water near the plant. About 2.7 million gallons of partially treated sewage and storm water was accidentally released Thursday into the bay from the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin. Residents and officials in Marin County said they were not notified until Friday about the spill, and many have complained about the late notification.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/02/04/BAU5URFQU.DTL>

22. *February 3, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Alabama; Florida; Georgia) **States: Deadline on water war is doable.** A mid-February deadline to solve the 18-year water war among Georgia, Alabama, and Florida is still viable, officials from all three states say. The main issue has been how much water to send downstream to Florida from Georgia's Lake Lanier at a time when metro Atlanta and North Georgia are in a record-setting drought. The three states reached a tentative compromise in November when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates Lanier, reduced the flow into Florida by about five percent. That and needed rainfall stabilized the lake level, which is still only about 66 percent full at a time when it should be refilling to buffer against the additional water demands through the spring, summer, and fall. The three states have feuded since 1989 over how to divide the water in the Chattahoochee River, which feeds Lanier and flows downstream into Florida's Apalachicola River. The corps tried to update its plan for operating for the lake, but it was stopped when Alabama and Florida filed suit in 1990.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/02/02/water_0203.html

23. *February 3, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Water contaminated at Buccaneer Beach.** Sewage from a 105,000-gallon spill yesterday entered Loma Alta Creek, which discharges at Buccaneer Beach, San Diego County health officials said. Signs warning of sewage-contaminated water were posted at the beach for a quarter-mile in both directions from the creek outlet. The spill was treated wastewater and was caused by corrosion in an outfall pipe from Oceanside's sewage treatment plant.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20080203-9999-1m3b2briefs.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *February 4, Associated Press* – (National) **Study warns of chemicals in baby items.**

Baby shampoos, lotions, and powders may expose infants to phthalates, chemicals that have been linked with possible reproductive problems, a small study suggests.

Phthalates are found in many ordinary products including cosmetics, toys, vinyl flooring, and medical supplies. They are used to stabilize fragrances and make plastics flexible. In the study, they were found in elevated levels in the urine of babies who had been recently exposed to baby products. Phthalates are under attack by some environmental advocacy groups, but experts are uncertain what dangers, if any, they pose. The federal government does not limit their use, although California and some countries have. Though “rigorous scientific evidence in human studies is lacking,” animal studies have suggested that phthalates can cause reproductive birth defects and some believe they may cause reproductive problems in boys and early puberty in girls.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080204/ap_on_he_me/baby_products_chemicals:_ylt=Asn0CCEAHkbfSyDA0rMLHpG2ocA

25. *February 3, Washington Post* – (National) **Method found to block parasitic spread of malaria in the body.** Researchers from the Stanford University School of Medicine say they have been able to identify two enzymes that help the malaria parasites spread throughout the body. And they say they have also identified compounds that may be able to block those enzymes. By blocking the enzymes, the lead researcher says in a university news release, the parasites stay in blood cells and die before they can escape and spread the malarial infection. The research, published February 3 in the advance online issue of *Nature Chemical Biology*, centered on enzymes in the parasite called proteases, according to the news release. Malaria attacks an estimated 500 million people worldwide every year with an estimated 1 million deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/03/AR2008020301367.html)

[dyn/content/article/2008/02/03/AR2008020301367.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/03/AR2008020301367.html)

26. *February 3, Associated Press* – (National) **Blood thinner may have caused allergic reactions in more than 50 dialysis patients.** Vials of the blood thinner heparin may be responsible for allergic reactions in 53 dialysis patients from 12 states. The suspected batches of heparin were recalled by Baxter Healthcare Corp. in January, but many vials of the tainted drug were used before the recall was ordered. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says on its Web site that the nine multi-vial recalled lots were all made at a single plant and that at least another 12 cases are being investigated. Heparin is used to prevent clotting among patients with kidney failure while they are undergoing dialysis. The Associated Press identifies the states where allergic episodes have been reported as California, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. None of the reactions has been fatal.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/03/AR2008020301367_2.html)

[dyn/content/article/2008/02/03/AR2008020301367_2.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/03/AR2008020301367_2.html)

27. *February 1, Associated Press* – (Minnesota, Indiana) **Investigators name slaughterhouse illness.** Investigators are closer to understanding a mysterious illness reported by pork plant workers in Minnesota and Indiana. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a report Thursday summarizing the investigation so far and naming the illness “progressive inflammatory neuropathy.” Minnesota officials said they were broadening their investigation to thousands of former employees at the Quality Pork Processors Inc. plant in Austin, going back a decade to when a powerful compressed air system was installed to remove brain tissue from pig heads. Investigators have been trying to determine whether pig brain tissue, sprayed into the air as droplets during removal by the compressed air system, was inhaled by workers and made them sick. If further investigation proves their theories true, they will have identified a rare, new condition that could shed light on a whole family of poorly understood disorders in which the body’s immune system attacks the nerves or the sheath that surrounds them.
Source:
<http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/02/01/slaughterhouse.illness.ap/>

Government Facilities Sector

28. *February 4, WTNH 8 New Haven* – (Connecticut) **Waterbury courthouse put in lockdown.** In Connecticut, Waterbury’s superior courthouse was put into lockdown Monday morning when a white powder was found. Firefighters responded to the scene after the unknown white powdery substance was found in a court room. As of noon, Monday, no one is allowed to enter or leave the building. State police say Waterbury fire officials will be testing the substance found.
Source: <http://www.wtnh.com/Global/story.asp?S=7818734>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *February 3, Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **If bird flu hits the Tri-Cities, Geneva will be ready for it.** The bird flu may never become a pandemic. But if it does, Geneva city officials are prepared with a new plan for continuing to provide city services during the crisis. The plan, presented to the city council last week and slated to become part of the city’s emergency operations plan, outlines measures city employees may take to reduce spreading the flu. The key is social distancing, which means many things. For example, the policy recommends conducting business by e-mail, phone, or videoconference, rather than meeting face to face. If employees must meet, they are to sit or stand at least three feet apart, prop open the door so everybody does not have to touch the door to enter or exit, keep the meeting short, and avoid shaking hands. If a confirmed case is found in the city, access to city buildings may be restricted, visitors may be asked to wear masks, and employees will be discouraged from going between buildings. The plan also includes increased telecommuting, especially if the employee lives in a town that has been quarantined. There are ten extra days of sick time for those who get the bird

flu, are quarantined because of it, or have to take care of a household member who has it. Under the plan, departments identified current employees with transferable skills and retirees who could be asked to come back to work. They have identified their essential employees and suppliers of critical materials and services and what they would do without them.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=127276&src=5>

30. *February 3, Norwalk Advocate* – (Connecticut) **Emergency workers will get access to road cameras.** A recent dispute over how best to upgrade Connecticut's aging highway traffic cameras should not delay a separate project allowing emergency responders Internet access to the cameras images. "These are definitely not tied together," said the state's Department of Transportation spokesman. "We're moving forward with getting access for first responders regardless of whether or not the replacement project has taken place." The DOT is preparing to go out to bid for the technology allowing fire and police services in the region and, eventually, throughout Connecticut to use the I-95 cameras to ensure they respond to the right location of a highway accident, he said. "The DOT would pipeline all of this real-time information to a central, Web-based source, which individual first responder organizations would be able to access," he said. The work should be completed by late spring 2009, he said. The camera images now can be viewed by the public through the Internet, but not always in real time. Also, the images are sometimes blacked out during serious accidents. The cameras were first installed in the 1990s, and emergency responders have periodically asked state officials to allow them greater access. The governor ordered the DOT in July to move forward on those requests. The South Western Region's Metropolitan Planning Organization has said that DOT should provide the link to emergency services as part of a planned \$40 million overhaul of the highway monitoring system. But the organization last week tabled a vote to approve the camera upgrade. The federal government, which is helping fund the camera replacement, requires regional planning organizations to agree with the plan.

Source: <http://www.topix.net/content/trb/2008/02/emergency-workers-will-get-access-to-road-cameras>

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Information Technology

31. *February 4, vnunet.com* – (National) **Spear phishers target U.S. students.** A new spear phishing attack is targeting the email accounts of U.S. university students. Researchers at SANS Institute said that the attacks are disguised as messages from administrators performing a 'database update.' The messages state that in order to keep their email accounts, the students must 'verify' the accounts by replying to the message with details such as user names, passwords, and date of birth. A SANS researcher wrote in the Internet Storm Center blog that the attacks are similar to those on European ISPs spotted earlier this year. The attackers use email addresses with the name of the school, although the accounts are hosted by an external email service such as Hotmail. He noted that, because the attack targets individual students, few messages are sent and the emails will often slip past spam filters. Administrators should be on the lookout for a large volume of incoming messages from the same address, as well as a large volume of messages

with multiple recipients. Students should also be warned about the attacks.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2208721/email-scammers-target-students>

32. *February 4, SecurityFocus* – (International) **Antivirus firms, testers form standards group.** Nearly two dozen companies announced on Monday the creation of an organization to set best practices and standards for the evaluation of antivirus software. As previously reported by SecurityFocus, more than 40 researchers met in Bilbao, Spain, last month to finalize the details of the group, dubbed the Anti-Malware Testing Standard Organization (AMTSO). The members of the group – which includes antivirus firms, testing labs, and security companies – create guidelines for the testing of software and act as a forum to analyze current anti-malware tests. “As anti-malware solutions become more complex, many existing tests are unable to evaluate product effectiveness properly, resulting in product reviews that are sometimes incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading,” the group stated on its Web site. “AMTSO is focused on addressing the global need for improvement in the objectivity, quality, and relevance of testing methodologies.” The founding of a group focused on testing standards comes 18 months after antivirus companies criticized independent product tester Consumer Reports for grading their products’ performance against test data that included 5,500 newly created virus variants. The antivirus companies questioned the reasoning that led to a testing lab writing viruses, while other security researchers argued that it is reasonable to measure the performance of antivirus software against previously unknown threats. The group is open to members from testing labs, antivirus companies, academia, and media reviewers.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/674>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

33. *February 3, ArabianBusiness.com* – (International) **Internet problems continue with fourth cable break.** Internet services in Qatar have been seriously disrupted because of damage to an undersea telecommunications cable linking the Gulf state to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the fourth such incident in less than a week. Qatar Telecom (Qtel) said on Sunday the cable was damaged between the Qatari island of Haloul and the UAE island of Das on Friday. The cause of damage is not yet known, but ArabianBusiness.com has been told unofficially the problem is related to the power system and not the result of a ship’s anchor cutting the cable, as is thought to be the case in the other three incidents. It is expected to take at least “a few days” to fix, according to one person with knowledge of the situation. The damage caused major problems for

internet users in Qatar over the weekend, but Qtel's loss of capacity has been kept below 40 percent thanks to what the telecom said was a large number of alternative routes for transmission. It is not yet clear how badly telecom and internet services have been affected in the UAE. Etisalat is expected to release a statement on Monday. Parts of the region were plunged into a virtual internet blackout last Wednesday when two undersea cables were cut near Alexandria, Egypt. The situation was made worse on Friday when Flag, part of India's Reliance Communications, revealed a third cable, Falcon, had also been damaged off the UAE coast. Etisalat said it does not use the Falcon cable and is therefore unaffected, but the UAE's second telecom, Du, warned the damage could hamper its efforts to restore normal service to customers. Etisalat said it is helping Du minimize disruption. Flag said a repair ship was expected to arrive at the location of the third damaged cable in the next few days, but bad weather has prevented the vessel from setting off from Abu Dhabi port.

Source: <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/510132-internet-problems-continue-with-fourth-cable-break?ln=en>

34. *February 1, DSL Reports* – (National) **FCC focused on rural broadband.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) plans for 2008 to be a year that is focused on rural broadband development. To that end, they have combined efforts with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to launch a new website entirely devoted to acting as a resource for information about rural broadband opportunities. The site provides an overview of broadband services, information about broadband funding, and news about broadband initiatives and FCC proceedings. The FCC has also announced plans to hold four rural broadband workshops throughout the year to assist communities in finding solutions to meet their broadband needs. (See the new rural broadband website at: http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/index.htm?job=broadband_home.)
Source: <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/FCC-Focused-on-Rural-Broadband-91520>
35. *February 1, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **Industry: FCC doesn't have authority to mandate backup power at cell sites.** The mobile-phone industry told a U.S. appeals court the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) exceeded its statutory powers in mandating the eight-hour backup power rule for cell sites as part of an otherwise legally flawed rulemaking. "By promulgating a sweeping mandate far beyond its regulatory authority without notice, the FCC produced a clumsy rule that fails to achieve any of its stated goals," stated cellular industry association CTIA and Sprint Nextel Corp. in their opening brief. Industry said it already has taken significant measures since Katrina and other hurricanes of 2005 to protect critical networks components with adequate power and to 'harden' networks to better withstand harsh weather conditions. Moreover, wireless carriers said they employ solutions to power outages – such as cell sites on wheels, cell sites on light trucks, and satellite cell sites on light trucks – that do not require permanent power sources. Though not explicit in industry's legal argument at the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit, cellphone and tower companies estimate the cost of compliance with the backup power rule could be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The backup power rule was approved last year, following recommendations in 2006 by the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of

Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks. The agency responded to protests by partially modifying the rule and extending auditing and compliance deadlines. The new rule, among other things, calls for a minimum 24 hours of emergency backup power for telecom assets inside central offices and eight hours for other facilities such as cell sites, remote switches, and digital loop carrier system remote terminals. There are about 200,000 cell sites in the United States, with tower companies operating about 115,000 sites and operators controlling 85,000 sites.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080201/SUB/229275749/1020/FREE>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *February 4, Washington Post* – (National) **Park Police rebuked for weak security.**

The U.S. Park Police have failed to adequately protect such national landmarks as the Statue of Liberty, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument and are plagued by low morale, poor leadership, and bad organization, according to a new government report. The force is understaffed, insufficiently trained, and woefully equipped, the report by the Interior Department's inspector general concludes. Sites on the Mall are weakly guarded and vulnerable to terrorist attack, the inspector general's office found. Among other examples, the report recounts someone leaving a suitcase against the south wall of the Washington Monument, where it sat unattended for five minutes until its owner reclaimed it. The 40-page report, technically an "assessment," was based on more than 100 interviews of law enforcement personnel and staff, as well as surveillance conducted last spring, summer, and fall. The report is expected to be made public February 4. The review is, in part, an element of the government's continuing analysis of security at national parks and historical sites after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Security at national landmarks has been physically enhanced since then, with special barriers, perimeters, and landscaping. But staffing levels as of last summer were lower than they were in 2001, the report says. The Park Police have 592 sworn officers, 97 civilian employees, and 30 private security guards. The agency helps patrol sites mostly in Washington, DC, but also is present at the Statue of Liberty and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/03/AR2008020303080.html?hpid=topnews>

37. *February 3, KOIN 6 Portland and Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Phone lines to Oregon Caves stolen.** Thieves hacked up and hauled away three miles of telephone and Internet cables that linked the Oregon Caves National Monument with the rest of the world. The lines led up the mountains south of Cave Junction to the Caves headquarters. They were strung alongside a twisting mountain road to the remote, but popular location. Most of

the lines were made of copper. As with other metal thefts, police suspect thieves may have already sold it on the scrap market.

Source: <http://www.koin.com/Global/story.asp?S=7816440>

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Dams Sector

38. *February 4, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (Nevada) **After years of talks, work to start flowing.** In Nevada, efforts to control flooding along the Truckee River are reaching a critical stage this year as Congress moves toward the first annual appropriation for the \$800 million project and local leaders establish a system for assessing local businesses and residents for \$400 million to help pay for it. The first construction associated with the project – a levee and flood wall where the river flows through the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony – is expected to begin this spring. It is an important convergence of events as officials endeavor to avoid the floods that regularly inundate the Truckee Meadows, costing millions and placing lives at risk.

Source:

<http://news.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080204/NEWS04/802040345/1016/NEWS>

39. *February 2, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Leak in dam spurs alert.** A leak in Deep Creek Dam in Garrett County prompted an alert to area residents, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) officials reported. There was no immediate threat of the dam failing, according to state officials. The leak is in the penstock, which takes water from Deep Creek Lake to the dam's powerhouse. The plant will remain closed until repairs are done and reviewed, said an MDE spokesman. "This is really just a notification," he said. "There is no fear of damage to the dam itself or of overflow. It is a precaution of our emergency plan to notify people what is going on."

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.dam02feb02,0,4950777.story>

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